Wishing Our Dear Friends
A Merry Christmas

Congratulations
LADY PILOTS AND PILOTS
ON YOUR FIRST PLACE WINS IN THE ITTY BITTY TREES AND TRENDS CLASSIC
SEE PICTURES AND STORY ON PAGE 7

The Hickman Courier

Vol. 151 • No. 50 | December 25, 2014 | $1

Tiny miracles are 'greatest gifts of all time'

Charlotte Smith
Editor

Not one miracle, but two. Kayla (Anderson) and Justin Mathis will be spending this Christmas in a place completely different than most of us, the NICU at Kosair Children's Hospital. Might not be the ideal place to spend Christmas but for Kayla and Justin it is the only place they want to be this holiday.

A year ago they didn't even know for sure if they were even going to be able to conceive a child, let alone spend December 25 with their two little miracles - Sadie and Sawyer.

Here is their story, which began twelve short months at the start of this year.

"We began IVF (Invitro Fertilization) in January 2014 to try and start our new family," began Kayla. "We were unable to have children naturally due to Justin having testicular cancer at the age of 15. We attempted IVF twice and became pregnant with what we thought was just one baby on July 7."

A few weeks later it was time to hear the beating of the new life growing inside Kayla. "Little did we know that we would hear two little heart beats," she said. "We were both a little in shock but absolutely thrilled because we never imagined having one child let alone two at once. You can't begin to imagine the joy that filled us, God had blessed us in a way that was almost unimaginable."

As Kayla's pregnancy progressed it was time for another routine doctor's visit. "On November 10 my Dad and I were headed to his first ever doctor's appointment with me to see the babies on ultrasound," said Kayla. "What was supposed to be a normal visit turned into the beginning of one of the wildest and scariest journeys of our lives."

Kayla was in pre-term labor at 22 weeks. "I was placed on bed rest at Baptist Health Paducah where Justin and I stayed until contractions began Saturday night, Nov. 15," she added. Kayla was then transferred by ambulance to Norton's Women's Health located in downtown Louisville.

"It was perfect timing," noted

See **TINY MIRACLES,** page 8

Justin and Kayla Mathis with twins Sadie and Sawyer

Deborah Liliker, 1st place Elf on a Shelf Photo Contest Winner

Lee Ann Stafford, 2nd place Elf on a Shelf Photo Contest Winner

Parnell considers 168-bed addition for jail

Charlotte Smith
Editor

As always Fulton County Jailer Ricky Parnell is looking to the future. On Monday, Dec. 15 he asked members of the Fulton County Fiscal Court to consider his proposal of another addition for the Fulton County Detention Center (FCDC).

"We are turning inmates away every week," he explained to the Court. "We are out of beds. I am confident we can support a 168-bed addition."

Currently the FCDC is paying off the loan from the 2009 addition. "We borrowed $3 million," Parnell said. "We have already paid down half of that. We are around $1.5 million."

The latest addition would cost approximately $1.8 million.

"I am always looking ahead," Parnell said.

"Adding on to the jail was the best investment we ever made," stated Fulton County Magistrate George A. Jones.

"I think it is the best way to look out for the county," reiterated Parnell. "

"House Bill 463 failed," stated Fulton County Judge/Executive David Gallagher. "It didn't accomplish what they (the state) wanted it to do. They released inmates to save money.

"They released 3,000 inmates," added Parnell. "We got them back plus 1,000. These are not first time offenders. These are habitual offenders."

Judge/Executive Gallagher and members of the Court are also looking to the future. "You

See **JAIL ADDITION,** page 6

Photo by Charlotte Smith

GROOGE'S CHRISTMAS - On Thursday, Dec. 18 members of Hickman First United Methodist Church performed Grooge's Christmas, a play written by Becky Seaton. Performing a scene from the play include Tyler Glosson (as Jesus), Aurora Piercefield (Angel #3), and Squizz Roberson as Mr. Hardin Grooge.

Volunteer Spotlight

Weatherly faithfully gives of her time every Tuesday

Charlotte Smith
Editor

Back in May we learned that OutsideIN was changing the world one t-shirt at a time when LeEllen Smith, founder of OutsideIN, spoke to the women of East Hickman Baptist Church's Women's Missionary Union's annual meeting.

Smith explained that the non-profit group transforms t-shirts into garmets for people to purchase. Following the purchase the organization also shares a garment with others like children in an orphanage or during a lengthy hospital stay.

Volunteers and women recovering from illnesses such as alcoholism work side by side turning the t-shirts into new, recycled items. One of those volunteers is Doris Weatherly, of Hickman. "Following the article in the newspaper Doris contacted me and said she wanted to volunteer," explained Smith. "I needed something to do in the spring," said Weatherly. "I

See **VOLUNTEERING,** page 6

Ambulance contract still not signed, meetings continue

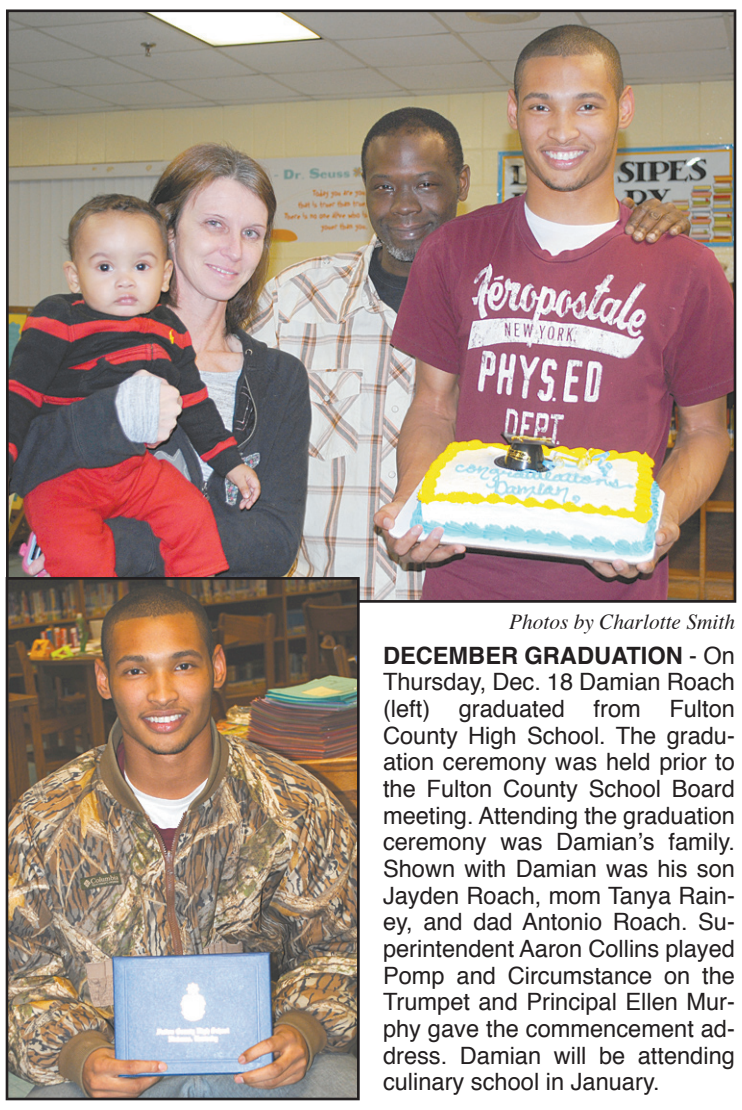
Benita Fuzzell
Fulton Leader

The outcome of a meeting with Parkway Regional Chief Executive Officer John Ballard and Chief Financial Officer Dana Lawrence had a different outcome than what had been anticipated by Parkway Regional and the legal team of the hospital's parent corporation, CHS, during the noon hour of Dec. 18 at the hospital.

Present at the conference table were Fulton County Judge/Executive David Gallager, HickmanMayor David Lattus, Hickman City Commissioner David Weatherly, Hickman City Manager Johnny McTurner, South Fulton Mayor Eddie Cassetty, South Fulton City Manager Debra Craig, Fulton City Manager Cubb Stokes, Tri-Cities Ambulance Service Director Kevin Kelly with CHS.

Ballard began the lunch meeting by referencing the three documents, all amendments to previously executed agreements relating to the hospital assuming the operational responsibilities of the ambulance service, some three years ago. The term of that original contract is set to expire Dec. 31, Ballard said, and told those present attorneys for the hospital had taken language in the original contract and moved forward, with an extension of

See **AMBULANCE CONTRACT,** page 5



Photos by Charlotte Smith

DECEMBER GRADUATION - On Thursday, Dec. 18 Damian Roach (left) graduated from Fulton County High School. The graduation ceremony was held prior to the Fulton County School Board meeting. Attending the graduation ceremony was Damian's family. Shown with Damian was his son Jayden Roach, mom Tanya Rainey, and dad Antonio Roach. Superintendent Aaron Collins played Pomp and Circumstance on the Trumpet and Principal Ellen Murphy gave the commencement address. Damian will be attending culinary school in January.

Inside This Week

Rudolph's Readers ..... Page 2
Amariee JaNae arrives ..... Page 3
Christmas Caroling ..... Page 4
Obits/Police News ..... Page 5
FCMS Basketball ..... Page 6
FCHS Basketball ..... Page 7
Rush Creek Nativity. ..... Page 8

Merry Christmas to each and everyone!

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Obituaries

Billy Baxter

Ida Davis

Rain Watch

December 2014 - 1.46
December 2013 - 6.21
www.kymesonet.org

River Stage Forecasts
Ohio River at Cairo, Ill.

Tuesday, Dec. 23 – 19.6
Wednesday, Dec. 24 – 19.8
Thursday, Dec. 25 – 19.7
Friday, Dec. 26 – 19.5
Saturday, Dec. 27 – 19.4

VISIT FROM SANTA - Jane Jones (left) and Tommie Jones (right) had their picture taken with Santa at Cayce United Methodist's annual Christmas program held Sunday, Dec. 21. Several youngsters and adults enjoyed the visit while having their picture taken with Santa.

Your Local Weather

Wed 12/24	Thu 12/25	Fri 12/26	Sat 12/27	Sun 12/28
41/33	48/38	54/38	40/28	40/28
Cloudy with rain. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the low 30s.	Sunny. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the upper 30s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 30s.	Showers. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the upper 20s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the upper 20s.

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THE HICKMAN COURIER
THE VOICE OF HICKMAN AND FULTON COUNTY
Charlotte Smith - Editor
Barbara Atwill - Business manager
Established in 1859. The oldest newspaper in West Kentucky.

Turning Back The Clock

25 Years Ago
December 21, 1989

Obituaries: John M. Statham, 76; Mrs. Emma Coffey, 93; Joe Fred Liliker, 66; Mrs. Sybil Overby Wilkins, 78; and LeRoy Johnson 53.

•

Michael L. Crider has been named assistant principal at West Kentucky State Vocational/Technical School in Paducah, Ky. Crider will be working with Bill Houston, principal. Houston is well-known in this area as he served as Counselor at the Fulton County Vocational Center for several years. Crider will begin his new duties after the holidays and will be in charge of evening classes including barbering, welding, drafting, machine shop and electronics. Crider had been employed as carpentry instructor at the Vocational Center in Hickman for the past 16 years.

•

Jennifer Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Davis of Bartlett, Tenn. was selected nationally as an "All-Star Cheerleader" by the Universal Cheerleading Association (UCA). Davis is he daughter of the former Twana Jo Hammock who was reared in Hickman.

•

Winners in the Christmas Decorating Contest in Hickman were selected by out-of-town judges Monday night, Dec. 18. First place winner in the best-decorated residence category was Jerry Morrow, with Dorothy Lee Harris placing second and Austin Voorhees, third. Southern Belle Florist took first place honors in the best-decorated business and Fields Petroleum Company was second. First place door prize was awarded to Hugh Lattus, with Glenn Jones winning second place and Willodean Milner third. First Baptist Church won first place for the best decorated church and the First Methodist Church was second place winner. The contest was sponsored by the Hickman Chamber of Commerce.

50 Years Ago
December 31, 1964

Coupled with other good news that ventures to put off on the right foot in 1965, word was received this week of the Port of Hickman's first big customer. A 100-ton shipment of wire for American Metals is due to arrive in the port on the afternoon of New Year's Eve.

•

The Ples Fields moved into their new home on Christmas Eve.

•

Jim Tipton, son of Circuit Judge and Mrs. Wood Tipton, who is a member of the Air Force Academy basketball team was in Jonesboro, Ark. when his team played Arkansas State December 30.

•

A public hearing has been scheduled for the afternoon of January 12, 1965 on flood control improvements and drainage being considered for the east bank of the Mississippi River between Columbus and Hickman, Kentucky. Channel improvements in Obion Creek which flows through the Upper Bottom have been recommended to Congress for authorization. The problem area, which contains farmland and pecan groves, is subject to overflow from the Mississippi River.

75 Years Ago
December 22, 1939

A conservative estimate places the number of children who received special invitations to meet Santa Claus at the big Community Christmas Tree in Hickman on Saturday. The Big Brothers' Committee in charge of preparing the treat for the children will be ready at 2:30 p.m. at the tree in Railroad Park with a big bag of candy, fruit, nuts and other goodies for every child.

•

The winning Santa Claus Letters this week were from Glynn Sargeant, Frankye Crouch and Billy Williams. Other letters were printed from Helen June Vick, Jimmy Jones, Peggy Jones, and Alpha Ruth Hudson.

•

Another improvement for Hickman's business section was launched here this week when repairs started on the N.C. and St. L. Railway Station. According to agent Earl Johnson the entire rear end of the building will be torn away and extensive repairs will be made on the remaining section. Preliminary work has already begun and the actual wrecking is due to start this week.

•

Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Wiley announce the birth of a six and half pound baby girl, Glenda Faye, in the Fulton Hospital Thursday, Dec. 14. Mrs. Wiley and little Glenda Faye returned here Monday.

125 Years Ago
December 22, 1889

The Mary Ruble, a small, neat steamer, has made one or two trips in the trade between New Madrid and Hickman, and seeks to build up a sustaining trade in this line. It is thought by many that a much better trade could be reached by this steamer by regular trips to James' Bayou, Hickman and Medley's and efforts are being made to induce her try that trade.

•

At the Inter-State Association of Odd Fellows, in session at Cairo last week, R.M. Matheny of Hickman, was elected vice president for Kentucky.

•

The Hon. C.A. Ward, President of the Michigan Lumber Company, which company is now building a railroad from near Hibbard on the Cotton Belt road seven miles toward Hickman, announced the probability of extending his road on to Hickman during next summer About 200 hands are now at work, but they do not expect to build further than the Mound's settlement this winter, if that far.

•

Miss Cordie Bryan and Harry Hertwick were married in the Methodist Church Monday night. Rev. Mooney performed the ceremony.

COURIER OPEN HOUSE VISITORS - Emmalyn Richardson (left) and Bentlee Greer (right) were just two of the over 40 visitors who stopped in at the Hickman Courier open house held on Friday, Dec. 19.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It was a great honor that Hickman's River Town Mission (RTM) was named the recipient of this year's Community Thanksgiving Service offering. We appreciate the support of the community we serve as we provide an affordable place for all to shop.

As a Christian ministry, RTM's primary purpose is to operate a thrift store for residents of Fulton County and surrounding areas. We receive donations of nice used clothing and other merchandise that we sort and resell. We sell bedding, kitchen equipment, household items and home décor. The River Town Mission thrift store, located at 801 Ashland Street in Hickman, is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Our goal is to provide a boutique shopping feel.

This year we had a successful "Back to School Night" where we presented coupons to school children to purchase clothes at RTM. In October, we celebrated with a Customer Appreciation Day. Our annual Dove Tree began at Thanksgiving. For any monetary donation given to RTM, in honor or memory of a loved one, a white paper dove is added to our Christmas tree. This holiday season, we're also presenting shopping vouchers to a number of local families. 2014 saw the creation of a Facebook page at River Town Mission Hickman, KY. Please like us and share us on Facebook.

We invite you to stop in and see what your support is doing. Again, we are humbled by your generous Thanksgiving offering.

New Year blessings to all,
The RTM Board and Staff

Photos by Lee Ann Harrison

RUDOLPH'S READERS - For several years now Robbie and Lisa Rudolph have been providing free books to students at area schools. On Friday, Dec. 19 the Rudolphs were at Fulton County Elementary/Middle School passing out books to kids in kindergarten through fourth grade.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION - Hickman Rotary Club President Charlotte Smith (right) presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Fulton County Jailer Ricky Parnell on Thursday, Dec. 18. With Parnell's assistance the club raised over $4,000 in their first annual ham fundraiser held on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

FEATURED VETERAN - This week's featured veteran is R.A. Edward. He was the son of Alvin and Rossie Edwards, born April 22, 1922. Growing up in Hickman he worked at his Dad's restaurant hopping cars and learning the art of cooking. In 1943, during WWII he joined the Navy. He attended boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Base, Ill. He served time at the naval air base at Los Alamedas, California attached to Composite Squadron VC21. R.A. married Margaret Harrison, daughter of Jesse and Ella Langford Harrison, on November 26, 1947. The Edwards children are: Lynda Carole, Jo Ella, and Lana Rae. The Hickman Chamber of Commerce has been adding veterans' photos to their display. The Carnegie Library is home to the museum, which has on display photos of many of the veterans from this area. Stop by Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to visit it.

Dave Says...

by Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

I gave my wife $350 for Christmas shopping at Wal-Mart. While she was there with our six-year-old daughter, she cashed her bonus check to put with the Christmas money. When she tried to check out, the money was gone. My wife even asked our daughter if she took the money out of mommy's purse, and she said no. Later, we found the money in our daughter's coat, and she didn't seem sorry at all for having taken it. How should we address this?

Jonathan

Dear Jonathan,

Most children that age really have no idea something like this is such a big deal. But this is more than just a money thing. It's something of great value, and it's someone else's stuff. Not only that, but she took it, lied about it and then showed no remorse. I've got a really short fuse when it comes to lying, but the lack of repentance and sorrow associated with something like this are my biggest problems.

First of all, you and your wife have to present a united front when you talk about this with your child. This is an incredible example of a teachable moment, but you two have to be on the same side and treat it with appropriate seriousness. You have to make your daughter understand that what she did was wrong and why it was wrong. Perhaps you could also use an example of someone taking something from her — something that was very valuable to her — and ask how she would feel in that situation.

Lots of times this approach, especially with little kids, will touch their hearts and help them realize the magnitude of their actions. In a case like this, I think I'd hand out very little in the way of punishment. Regardless, you have to nip this kind of thing in the bud immediately. This is the kind of violation you cannot allow to happen unaddressed. And whatever the consequences of her actions end up being, you must make sure she clearly understands why she's being punished and why what she did was wrong.

—Dave

Dear Dave,

My husband and I both lost our jobs over a month ago. I've been interviewing, and he started a two-week training program for a new job the other day, but right now we're in survival mode. We just cashed in an annuity, and were wondering if we should pay down debt and reduce the money going out each month, or just live on it?

Veronica

Dear Veronica,

Right now, it's raining and you need an umbrella. If it were me, I'd just sit on the money for the time being.

Don't misunderstand me. You need to be honorable and pay your debts, but you may have to put that on hold for a while. Right now, it's more important to have food in the house and keep the heat on. This kind of situation is scary and can be really stressful, so make sure you hug and hold on to each other a lot, too.

It's been rough for you guys, especially right here during the holidays. But it sounds like things may be taking a turn for the better. Your husband is about to start making money again, and you may have some possibilities on the horizon.

Through this stretch, honest communication can make a huge difference. Make sure your creditors know what's happening. Let them know that you want to make things right, and that you will make things right as soon as you can.

God bless you guys!

—Dave

**Dave Ramsey is America's trusted voice on money and business. He has authored five* New York Times *best-selling books:* Financial Peace, More Than Enough, The Total Money Makeover, EntreLeadership *and* Smart Money Smart Kids. The Dave Ramsey Show *is heard by more than 8 million listeners each week on more than 500 radio stations. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.*

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Reader Information

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The newspaper is on sale each Wednesday at these locations:

Hickman - E.W. James & Sons, Little General #53, Medcare Pharmacy, MeMaw's, Pat's Red Door Salon, River City Liquors, Senior Citizens Center, and inside Dollar General
Cayce - Cayce Cafe, Cayce Junction, and Cayce Oil & Lube
Fulton - Evans Drug, Pockets, Hunter's One Stop, Pic Pac, The Fulton Leader, and inside Walmart
Union City - Skaggs Gro.
Jordan - Jordan Store

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Photo by Charlotte Smith

SENIOR CENTER CHRISTMAS FUN - On Thursday, Dec. 18 senior citizens enjoyed Christmas fun including a stocking exchange and Dirty Santa while enjoying a variety of food and refreshments during their annual Christmas Party held at the Hickman Senior Citizens Center. The center will be closed until Monday, Jan. 5, 2015.

Cradle Roll

Amariee JaNae arrives December 1

Tiera Mackins of Hickman, Ky., and DeVante Nicholas of Hopkinsville, Ky. announce the birth of their daughter.

Amariee JaNae Nicholas was born December 1, 2014. She weighed seven pounds one ounce and was 19-1/2 inches long.

Grandparents are Kenvon and Jenny Pierce of Hickman, Adondra Manning of Hopkinsville, and Leonard Nicholas of Bowling Green, Ky.

Amariee JaNae Nicholas

Happy Birthday

The Hickman Courier wishes all these good folks a very happy birthday! Help make their days more special by remembering them with a card or a phone call.

December 29 – David Blincoe, Dan Cartwright, Jr., Cheryl Lunsford, Catherine Powell, Jamie Mudd, John Swain, Clayton Bradshaw, Jakob Edmison, Rebecca Stewart, Preston Baggett, and Stanley W. Mansfield.

December 30 – Kathy Moss, Penny Fleming, Michael Henry, Christopher J. Enloe, Andrew Wade Spencer, Jerry Bradshaw, and Haley Newcomb.

December 31 – Kathryn Parnell, Debbie Canaday, Glen Wright, Tina Hamil, Arnita Cheirs, Missy Nicholson, Ricky Bates, Ira Bates, Modene Totty, Melissa Stroud, Zachary Curlin, and Derrick Ward.

January 1 – Sheila Moss, Charles Brannam, Mrs. Michael Wilkerson, Randy Emery, Sandy Emery, Sherry Pair, Twana Jo Davis, Shady Moore, Pat Earley, and Rhonda Dinwiddie.

January 2 – Billy Amberg, David Sims, and Patti Patey.

January 3 – Jimmy Ray Elks, Jr., Daniel Williams, Laramy Liggett Allen, Michael Crowell, Maddie Kate Coffey, and Elizabeth Ann Lattus.

January 4 – Jonny Bennett, Sandra Weatherspoon, Jennifer Parker.

Hickman Duplicate Bridge Club

Hickman Duplicate Bridge Club winners for Tuesday, Dec. 16 were as follows: Betty Amberg and Jo Grissom, first place; and Betty Jo Wheeler and Bonnie Poynor, second place.

Senior Spirit

By Charlotte Smith

Winter Holiday Activities For Seniors

Whatever tradition you celebrate, holiday activities for seniors can add a little special fun. Crafts, parties, holiday decorations, holiday treats and food - These are part of the excitement, and all included in our ideas here.

Winter elderly and senior activities can be fun for all! Some crafts and ideas may vary depending on how active people are, or if they need modifications and extra help.

It can be a difficult time for some seniors, especially if loved ones or pets have passed on, or if they are alone.

So it is especially important to involve the seniors in your life, neighborhood and place of worship in as much as you can. Find some fun and meaningful things to do.

Here are some great ideas shared with us from all over. Many are perfect to do with children also. No matter what your location or climate, take a look below, and then just use your imagination and change these holiday activities for seniors a bit to fit your needs.

Flower and centerpiece arranging

Have a flower shop, nursery or craft store come to your campus or group (or you can make a visit there) to demonstrate the art of flower arrangement, and putting together special holiday centerpieces. They may also have indoor plant and flower kits available as gift items, or as projects to do in the home or in a common area.

Make a winter scene display

One campus that I visited had received a gift of a tall, animated snowman several years previous. This had set the stage for many years of holiday activities for seniors.

Soon they had set up a snow scene around it with rolls of glittery cotton and mirror for a lake. A volunteer and a few residents spray painted a tree branch white, covered it with glitter, hung white twinkling lights and ornament balls, then stood it in a decorative planter so that it looked like a fantasy tree.

Over the years more greenery, decorations and animated figures where added – elves, animals, lit lollipops, then a little house, etc. Before they knew it, they had created a fabulous community display that people from all over came to visit. Along with the craft fair they also started to make a little extra money. _

Create a manger scene

A unique manger scene can be a group effort with a little skill from many people and some ingenuity. Characters can be elaborate and made from paper mache, or simply sewn dolls. The men in the group might enjoy making the stable and surrounding area for the scene.

The result can be a keepsake your group or community can have for years, and almost endless holiday activities for seniors for a long time to come.

Grow an amaryllis or two. Or ten.

Kits for these magnificent large blooms are plentiful at holiday time, and they come in many colors. The amaryllis grows significantly every day for weeks, so you can literally watch it get bigger from day to day.

Then it bursts into large blossoms, so in a group of several, they are stunning. It's one of the fascinating and easy holiday activities for seniors that anyone can enjoy.

Holiday craft fair

A local church had an excellent idea. About two months before Christmas, they announced that people could stop by a table after services and pick up some free money - an envelope with up to $100. The purpose was to loan a little capital for people to buy supplies and make items for the upcoming craft fair.

At the fair the $100 loan would be recuperated, plus profits. It worked like a charm because all that was stopping some folks from participating was the lack of funds they needed to create what they knew how to make. It was one of the more successful craft fairs they'd had. It also created a chance to launch many holiday activities for seniors, with a worthy goal.

Make a gingerbread house

Gingerbread houses are highly creative holiday activities for seniors, and have all sorts of possibilities. Including having an expert visit who has done it before, especially a baker.

You can tailor the process to your participants, using an easy kit, or baking the gingerbread from scratch and cutting it out from a pattern. (The gingerbread used for these is as hard as cement!) Or just use graham crackers and adhere them with frosting (like glue) to a pre-made form or a simple wooden birdhouse.

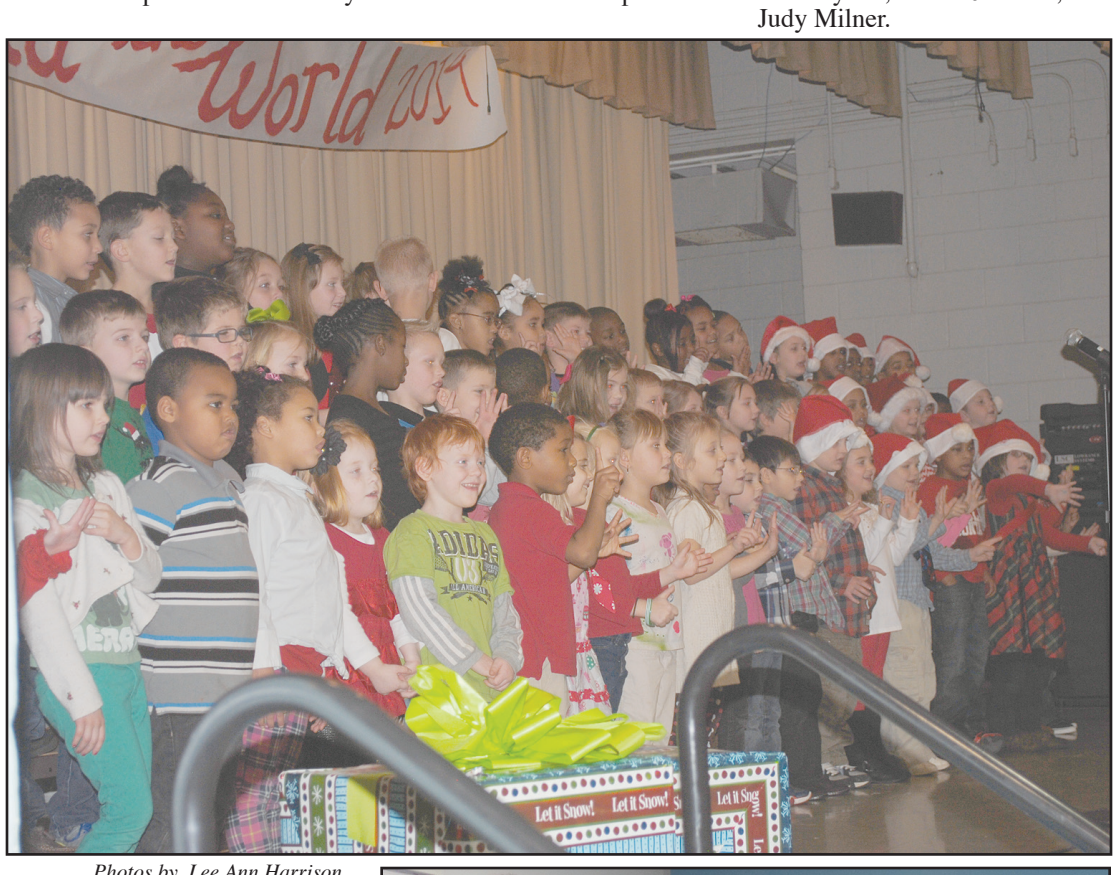
Then decorate. This is one of those projects that "kids" of all ages love to do. And the guys in the group can do a little creative construction for an outdoor scene surrounding the gingerbread house. (See more at: http://www.elder-one-stop.com/holiday-activities-for-seniors.html#sthash.AxY2WXc0.dpuf)

Center closed Wednesday, Dec. 25 – Friday, Jan. 2.

Bingo is played every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week (25¢ a card) on these days immediately following lunch, at approximately 11:30.

Bingo winners last week included Monday, Dec. 15, Maria Jackson, Ellie Foster, James Griffith, and cover all Shirley Shaw; Wednesday, Dec. 17, Roberta Duncan, Pat Turnbow, Jane Voorhees, and cover all David Westbrook; and Friday, Dec. 19, Mary H. McCauley, Doris Lattus, James Griffith, and cover all, Corinne Shaw.

Rook winners last week were Shirley Shaw, Julia Davis, Robert White, Helen Drewry, Lana Edwards, Josephine Warren, Vonciel Leyhue, Maria Jackson, and Judy Milner.



Photos by Lee Ann Harrison

A CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE - On Friday, Dec. 19 classes at Fulton County Elementary/Middle School performed Christmas songs under the direction of Stephanie Mora. Friends and family were treated to a variety of musical performances.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT - The freshmen class at FCHS adopted a family for Christmas as part of their community service. Pictured here donating the items are class officers Jonah Mathews, Bradley Webb, Rick Garland, Precious Thomas and Caroline Morrison.

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Night at the Museum Secret of the Tomb PG
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The Hobbit: The Battle of The Five Armies PG-13
Daily thru Sunday, Jan. 4, 12:30, 3:30, 7:00; Mon. thru Thurs., Jan. 5 - 8, 7:00 p.m. only

The Hickman Public Library
will honor
Judy Reason
for 25 years of devoted service
with a
Retirement Reception
Dec. 31, 2-4 p.m. at the Hickman Library
The public is invited to stop in and wish her well!!

BABY of 2014

We will spotlight
Babies born in 2014
in our January 30, 2015 issue

Cameron Michael Fuller
November 6, 2012
Son of
Jeff & Jill
(Sheehan) Fuller

If you would like to include your baby, send us a picture, along with their name, parents names and $10.00 by January 23 at 2 p.m.

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This is an advertisement

Cayce UMC Christmas Caroling

CAROLING AT CHRISTMAS - Members of Cayce United Methodist Church gathered for their Annual Christmas Caroling night. The group visited several members of the church family and community on Wednesday, Dec. 17. Afterwards members went to enjoy several varities of pizza and fellowship.

Fulton and Hickman Counties Church Page

This church directory is made possible by these businesses, who encourage all of us to attend worship services.

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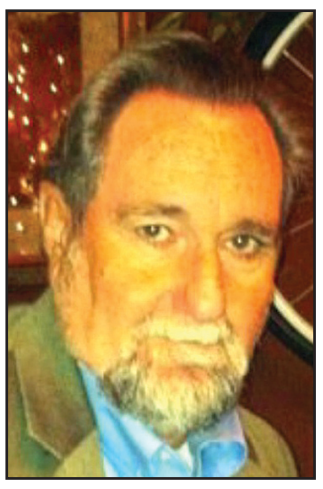
Deed Transfers

Billy Baxter

Mr. Billy Wray Baxter, 72, a resident of Union City, Tenn., died December 17, 2014, at his home.



Born August 25, 1942, in Big Buck, Tenn., he was the son of the late John William and Mary Edna (Neal) Baxter. He married Donna (Forsythe) Baxter December 8, 1978. He was a logger for Baxter Logging Company, which he owned for 45 years. He was also a member of Cayce Baptist Church, a Gideon and a Tennessee Master Logger.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, include four daughters and three sons-in-law, Kim Yeater and Kathi and Tony Lattus, all of Hickman, Ky., Karen Wheeler of North Fort Myers, Fla., and Amy and Blane Malone of Fulton; one son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Joyce Terrett of Cayce, Ky.; one brother, James Paul Baxter of Trezevant, Tenn.; two sisters, Betty Dorris of Hendersonville, Tenn. and Elizabeth Spellings of Huntingdon, Tenn.; one brother-in-law, Robert Forsythe of Georgetown, Ky.; and six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

One grandson, Kyle Major Malone, preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held December 19 at Cayce Baptist Church in Cayce, with Brother Michael Farmer and Brother Dale True officiating. Burial followed in Hickman City Cemetery.

Family and friends served as pallbearers.

Edmaiston-Mosley Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Ida Davis

Mrs. Ida Davis, 98, a resident of Hickman, Ky., died on December 18, 2014 at Baptist Memorial Health Care in Union City, Tenn.

Born July 10, 1916 in Indianapolis, Ind., she was the daughter of the late George and Dora Lee Shaffer. She was a homemaker and a member of the West Hickman Baptist Church.

Survivors include two sons, Richard Davis and Larry Davis, both of Hickman; one daughter, JoAnn Coffman of South Fulton, Tenn.; and four grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Four brothers and one sister preceded her in death.

Graveside services were held December 21, at the Brownsville Cemetery near Hickman with Rev. Henry Callison officiating.

Strong Funeral Home of Hickman was in charge of arrangements.

PUBLIC NOTICE

An ordinance amending the Fulton County Budget for Fiscal Year 14/15, to include unanticipated receipts from Homeland Security in the amount of $109,000.00 and from ARRA Grant in the amount of $13,000.00 and from Telephone Commission in the amount of $40,000.00 and increasing expenditures in the area of CDBG Fund in the amount of $122,000.00 and in the area of Jail Fund in the amount of $40,000.00 was adopted by the Fulton County Fiscal Court on December 15, 2014. A copy of the adopted ordinance with full text is available for public inspection at the Office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.

Hickman Police Department News

The Hickman Police Department reports these arrests, citations, investigations and fire calls for Hickman and Cayce Volunteer Fire Departments for Sunday, Dec. 14 – Sunday, Dec. 15:

Sunday, Dec. 14:

• Responded to a call on Ivey St.

• Responded to a call on Johnson Ln.

• Traffic stop on 1099 Bypass

• Traffic stop on 7th St.

• Responded to a loud music complaint on 7th St.

Monday, Dec. 15:

• Responded to a juvenile issue at Davis Park.

• Performed a welfare check on Bond St.

• Traffic stop on Clinton St.

• Responded to a call on 7th St.

Tuesday, Dec. 16:

• Responded to a report of vandalism on McConnell St.

• Performed a civil stand by on Marr St.

Wednesday, Dec. 17:

• Responded to a call on Ivey St.

• Responded to a call on 7th St.

• Performed a motorist assist on 5th St.

•Traffic stop on Moscow Ave.

• Followed up on a call on Holly St.

Thursday, Dec. 18:

• Responded to a commercial alarm on Wellington St.

• Followed up on a call at Davis Park.

• Responded to a gas drive off at Little General.

• Responded to a call on 7th St.

• Responded to a call at Davis Park.

• Responded to a call at Dollar General – Jamie Norton arrested for shoplifting and warrants.

• Traffic stop on Union City Hwy.

Friday, Dec. 19:

• Ranesha Warren arrested on warrant for theft by unlawful taking (auto) and criminal mischief.

• Responded to a call at Indian Hills.

• Responded to a call at the police department.

• Performed a motorist assist at Hickman Manor Apts.

• Responded to a call at EW James and Sons.

• Responded to a call at Windward Trailer Park.

• Responded to a call at Little General.

• Responded to an animal complaint on Moscow Ave.

• Traffic stop on Myron Cory Dr.

• Traffic stop on State Route 94.

• Responded to a call on Clinton St.

• Responded to a call on Ashland St.

• Investigated possible shots fired on Cedar St.

Saturday, Dec. 20:

• Responded to a loud music complaint on 7th St.

• Responded to a loud music complaint at Hickman Manor.

• Followed up on loud music complaint on 7th St.

• Responded to a 911 hang up on Chickasaw St.

• Responded to a call on Chickasaw St.

• Traffic stop on Davis Park.

• Traffic stop on Union City Hwy.

• Traffic stop on Moscow Ave.

• Traffic stop on State Route 94.

• Traffic stop on Moscow Ave.

• Traffic stop on Union City Hwy.

• Traffic stop on Moscow Ave.

Sunday, Dec. 21:

• Traffic stop on 5th St. – Sandra Morris arrested for failure to illuminate headlights and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol.

• Responded to a loud music complaint on 7th St.

Editor's Note: This information was submitted in its entirety by a representative of the City of Hickman Police Department. Any corrections, changes, or deletions contact the Police Department at 270-236-2529.

Fulton Co. Sheriff's Department News

The Fulton County Sheriff's Department reports these arrests and citations for Monday, Dec. 15 through Saturday, Dec. 20:

Monday, Dec. 15:

• Caleb P. Morgan of Rives, Tenn., white male, arrested, criminal possession of forged instrument 2nd; improper registration; and no insurance.

Tuesday, Dec. 16:

• Caleb P. Morgan of Rives, white male, arrested, bench warrant failure to appear; fugitive from justice (Graves County).

• Amanda F. Burden of Union City, Tenn., white female, arrested, changing drivers; fleeing or evading 1st; DUI 1st.

• Dale Brown of Fulton, Ky., white male, citation, criminal summons.

• Joe Busby of Union City, white male, arrested, disregarding stop sign, reckless driving, wanton endangerment of officer 1st, fleeing police 1st (motor vehicle).

• Jacob Davis of Hickman, white male, citation, speeding 75/55 mph zone, expired plates.

Wednesday, Dec. 17:

• Melissa L. King of Palmersville, Tenn., white female, citation, speeding 70/55 mph zone.

Editor's Note: This information was submitted in its entirety by a representative of the Fulton County's Sheriff's Office. Any corrections, changes, or deletions contact the Sheriff's office at 270-236-2545.

Bluff Briefs

Basic Computer Class at e-Learning Center in Hickman

The Fulton County Adult Education program is sponsoring a free Basic Computer Class at the e-Learning Center in Hickman at the Fulton County Office Building. The classes will be held on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Call Melody Darnell at 270-472-2373 to sign up or for more information.

FCHS Class of 1965 planning Class Reunion

The senior class of 1965 of FCHS wants to celebrate our 50-year journey! Please call Freda Klutts Caldwell at 270-236-2471. We can prepare a better event series with your participation!

Shop The Classifieds

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For Rent: 3-bedroom, one bath house. $400 per month. Located on Pecan Circle in Hickman. Call 270-627-1655.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has duly qualified as Administratrix for the estate of Johnny Ray Shields, deceased. All persons indebted to said estate shall pay any such indebtedness promptly, and all persons having claims against said estate shall present the same, properly verified according to law, to the undersigned, Hon. David V. Oakes, P.O. Box 1246, Paducah, KY 42002 or Sarah Johnson, Circuit Clerk, P.O. Box 198, Hickman, KY 42050, no later than July 2, 2015.

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Gift Certificates for the Pictorial History Book would make a great Christmas Gift!!
Don't miss out!! Deadline extended to Dec. 30, 2014.
Drop off photo submissions at the Fulton Leader, 304 E. State Line in Fulton, or at the Hickman Courier, 1232 Moscow Ave., in Hickman, between 8-5 M-F, or mail them to us. You may reserve your copies of the book at the Leader or the Courier, or by mail using the coupon at the bottom. Please submit your photos by December 30, 2014. Still have questions? Call 270-472-1121 or 270-236-3412.
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Ambulance Contract

from page 1

forward, with an extension of one year. Amendments were added to alter the period of time either party would be required to give to terminate the agreement, from nine months to 60 days. This is a major concern for Judge Gallagher.

With an obvious assumption the parties present were prepared and authorized to sign the amendments and extension, Ballard proposed just that.

Stokes was the first to alert Ballard to the inability of the Twin Cities Ambulance Board to sign off on the documents, as a result of action taken at a TCAS board meeting the hour before. Craig also informed Ballard she had never received a copy of the proposed amendments on behalf of the city of South Fulton. Stokes also said, in his capacity as city manager for the city of Fulton, while initial approval had been given by that governing body at a special called meeting Dec. 17, city attorney Allison Whitledge recommended the approval pending questions answered in regard to language used in the paperwork proposed.

Judge Gallagher and Hickman Mayor Lattus also joined with the representatives of the other municipalities as all of the parties emphatically informed Ballard and Lawrence each of their attorneys were continuing to review the documents and "nothing would be signed today..."

"I sent all of you all these documents two weeks ago," Ballard said.

"The city of South Fulton never got them, and I only just found out about this meeting this morning," said Craig. Ballard said he had emailed each party the material and did not receive any of the emails back.

When one of the questions arose in regard to the absence of the terminology of "certificate of need", in reference to the hospital leasing that article, in correspondence to the licensing of the ambulance service from TCAS, Ballard and Lawrence both said they were not aware of their assumption or possession of the certificate of need. Hickman City Commissioner Weatherly said he had researched the item in question, and online found the hospital's name was attached to the certificate of need/licensing.

Lawrence said while she was aware the hospital had renewed licensing certification, she had never seen the certificate of need mentioned. Both Ballard and Lawrence agreed they would review the information on the CON, if it could be forwarded to them and the company's attorneys.

Ballard expressed his confusion as to why the proposed contract extension was an issue, when it was simply an extension as to the agreement made by all parties three years ago. He also stated the change to the 60 day notice for either party terminating the agreement was a standard procedure used by the hospital for most all contracted products and services.

Gallagher stressed in the event the hospital chose to exercise the 60 day notice of termination, there would be no way the entities would be able to get started up with another service provider for ambulance service in that period of time.

"We did, three years ago," said Lawrence.

"You didn't start from scratch," responded Gallagher.

"We understand your standpoint, from a business decision," Gallagher went on to say. "For us, though, it's a health issue. You haven't called and said anything about any of this. We need to be at the table for these discussions. You need to be forthcoming. Was this not in the works at Thanksgiving? Was the decision being discussed in September? It is not just a business issue with us."

"We are very limited as to what we can discuss," said Ballard. "With the Securities and Exchange Commission, we are very limited. We have been operating at a loss for four years...."

"We are here to provide protection for the people of Fulton County, and we are going to be left holding the bag? Are you all going to be prohibited from selling to another healthcare provider? We need to know, if we can be a part of that decision," Gallagher said.

"Ultimately, the hospital will be decommissioned as an asset for sale," Ballard said.

"Has it been discussed to prohibit this hospital from being sold to another healthcare provider?" Gallagher asked.

Ballard indicated he had not been in on such a discussion, to which Gallagher insisted on being provided with who, in the corporation, would potentially be knowledgeable about such a possible discussion, and specifically asked for the name of the individual who could discuss it with him.

"We are offering to run this ambulance for another year," Ballard said.

"A year is not long enough. We bent over backwards, offering $400,000 in subsidies a year, roughly, offered the bays...." Gallagher said.

"We have bent over backwards as well...apparently you all were in desperate straits...we provided a state of the art dispatch center, a new ambulance was put in service..." Ballard said.

"Look, contracts expire every day," said Fulton City Manager Stokes. "Could we not continue to work under the existing contract, day to day, month to month?"

While Ballard said he could not be authorized to answer the question definitely, his "gut says no", referring to the public trade designation and stringent hospital regulations.

"Just about every regulatory agency in Washington, D.C. will apply to us with their rules," Ballard said.

When asked why Parkway would still be interested in continuing to operate the ambulance service, with the absence of a hospital, Ballard said "because we know that we all want to make this as painless as possible. We tried to keep the clinics. But Kentucky and Tennessee will not get along....they won't even recognize each other's nursing licenses." He also stated the Clinton clinic will close as of March 31. The Hickman clinic, he said would remain open until the new facility is built in South Fulton. Ballard went on to say currently the hospital has property in the South Fulton Industrial Park, and initially modular structures will be added to that location to allot for staffing and services such as x-rays, labs and extended care services, with construction on a new facility at the location tentatively set to begin in the fall of 2015.

Both Ballard and Lawrence told those present 70-75% of patients seen at Parkway Regional were Medicare/Medicaid patients.

"There has been no industry here to support that type of insurance" said Lawrence. Ballard added Kentucky Medicaid pays a flat fee for every enrollee, making a profit with the difference between what is received by them and what they pay the facilities such as Parkway.

While all parties present for the meeting indicated they were not pleased "with the way this was handled" in reference to the initial announcement from the hospital, Ballard said he could only apologize, because he "did not think it would be that complicated" as it related to the execution of the extension and amendments.

"This meeting, I believe, has been very beneficial," said Stokes.

"It is the time that scares me," said Gallagher. "I just want to do what's best for the people of Fulton County. I can not take (Fulton County Detention Center) inmates across the state line...." he added.

"If we didn't want to be good citizens, we would just let the current contract expire Dec. 31 and say happy trails," Ballard said. He noted the hospital was willing to extend the ambulance service for one more year, with the extension and amendments.

"Would you at least look at some of my concerns, the concerns I have?" Gallagher asked.

"I was ready to sign here today. But, we will come back on Dec. 29, with the intent to sign again," Ballard said, in reference to all parties requesting time for each of their respective attorneys to convene and discuss all the concerns.

Ultimate Goal

"We want to work together," stated Gallagher on Monday, Dec. 22 minutes before leaving to head to another meeting. "But they have interests and we do to. We want to talk about them. We don't want to be adversaries, we want to be partners with Parkway and CHS."

While Gallagher's time as Judge/Executive for Fulton County is quickly coming to an end, he isn't sitting back and leaving the work to someone else. He is meeting with everyone and anyone who can assist with his goal of putting together a package that benefits all of Fulton County before midnight strikes on Wednesday, Dec. 31. "We want Parkway involved. We want them at the table, thinking about our concerns and finding solutions."

Concerns include the certificate of need, having an ambulance service located in both ends of the county, and clinics operating in both ends of the county. "They said that the clinics and the ambulance are both profitable," added Gallagher. "If they are making money why would you build a new clinic in South Fulton?"

Another issue Gallagher is currently looking into is the Rural Health Designation, for enhanced medicaid payments. "I think it is a state designation and a state agency makes that determination in Kentucky," he said. "I am checking into."

Jr. Lady Pilots defeat Jr. Lady Falcons

Charlotte Smith
Editor

The Fulton County Jr. Lady Pilots are now 6 and 1 after traveling to Lake County, Tenn. on Saturday, Dec. 13, pulling out a two-point victory over the Jr. Lady Falcons 23-21.

Jr. Lady Pilots 23
Jr. Lady Falcons 21
(at Tiptonville)

Lake County entered the scoring column first with 3:59 left to play in the opening quarter. A steal by Savanna Roberts resulted in a two-point bucket by Karlie Williams to tie the game at two point apiece.

Lake County scored five unanswered points until #2 Nikkia Smith scored again for the Jr. Lady Pilots with 30 seconds left in the quarter.

Alaya Barnett kept the Jr. Lady Falcons from scoring at the end of the quarter with a steal.

Buckets by #2 Nikka Smith and Delaynee Cermak pulled the Jr. Lady Pilots within one, 8-9.

A put back by Cermak under the basket gave the Jr. Lady Pilots their first lead of the game as time expired in the half, 10-9.

The game remained close throughout the third quarter. With two buckets from Cermak and another bucket on a steal by Barnett, the Jr. Lady Pilots were still on top by one, 16-15.

The Jr. Lady Falcons took the lead early in the fourth quarter, with the Jr. Lady Pilots responding yet again with a bucket by Cermak and Barnett, on another steal, 20-19.

The rest of the game the Jr. Lady Pilots went to the free throw line several times, going five of 17 from the line in the fourth quarter and five of 19 on the night.

With 28 seconds left in the game, Barnett stole the ball for the Jr. Lady Pilots. Quickly the Jr. Lady Falcons got the ball back giving them the chance to tie the game. Missing the shot, the Jr. Lady Pilots defeated the Jr. Lady Falcons 23-21. The Jr. Lady Pilots were outscored in the fourth quarter five to six.

Photo by Jenna Smith

GOING FOR THE LOOSE BALL - Jr. Lady Pilot Nikkia Smith, #2, looks to outreach the Jr. Lady Falcon on Saturday, Dec. 13. The Jr. Lady Pilots won the game 32-31.

Photo by Jenna Smith

PULLING DOWN THE REBOUND - Fulton County Jr. Pilot C.J. Smith (left) and Cameron Cole (right) go for the rebound against several Lake County Jr. Falcons during a Saturday afternoon game on Dec. 13. Lake County won the game.

Volunteering

from page 1

enjoy the Christian atmosphere at OutsideIN and the willingness of the people to encourage one another."

The location of the non-profit all the way in Troy, Tenn., didn't deter Weatherly from volunteering. She is now a faithful volunteer every Tuesday.

"The goal is to nurture and encourage the women who work at OutsideIN," added Smith. "The volunteers work hard and show interest in the ladies that work at OutsideIN and it sends a good message to them."

An unexpected and positive development is the reciprocating relationships that have evolved. "One of the ladies who works at OutsideIN knows how to quilt and she is now sharing that knowledge with Doris by attending a quilting class together," explained Smith.

"I like to feel that I contribute at least a little bit but I receive far more than I give," added Weatherly. "Working there helps fill a void left in my life when my husband died."

The worker has even volunteered to pick up Weatherly in Hickman so she could attend the annual Christmas party. "One of the ladies there invited me to join a quilting club at The Stitching Post in Union City, Tenn., which I also enjoy," said Weatherly. "There is a great group of ladies that attend that and they are also very helpful."

Jail Addition

from page 1

do a great job," Judge/Executive Gallagher told Parnell. "The detention center has been successful because of what you do. You hustle and the county has been fortunate you have been jailer."

Parnell was asked to proceed with filling out the application for the addition and loan for the project. "The court will look at it in the first quarter of 2015," added Judge/Executive Gallagher.

Another concern of Parnell's is the need, requirement, for an ambulance service in Fulton County to serve the detention center. "I have to have an ambulance service," stated Parnell. "I want the county to be able to provide it for us and the citizens of Fulton County. If not, we (the FCDC) will have to do something to have ambulance service for the inmates we house at our facility."

Sports In Kentucky
For the Hickman Courier
By Bob Watkins

Joy to the world. And Planet Basketball too.

In the Bluegrass State, this Christmas is more than Jingle Bells, Here Comes Santa Claus and goin' to Gran'ma's house.

Family revelry is okay. Mother's chocolate covered peanut butter balls and candlelight service on television is appropriate. But, this Christmas Week drama will carry on well past time the fat guy in a red suit is here then gone home again to sit in front of his fire.

And yes, Planet Earth will continue with its usual suspects – Bill O'Reilly bleating that the sky is falling ... North Korea will still bluster and maybe threaten Walt Disney Studios next. ... Johnny Manziel will continue doing selfies ... and Scarlett Johansson will still try to get naked in public.

But here in *The Nations*, (Big Blue and Cardinal), Kentuckians will open Christmas gifts with an expected "ahhh, thank you," but minds will already be in count-down mode toward Saturday afternoon.

Clocks will tick toward two, Eastern time while Moms, dads and the kids – Fulton to Catlettsburg and Covington to Guthrie, get dressed out in blue or red and promise to keep it sane, knowing they will do no such thing.

Kentucky 12-0, Louisville 11-0.

First, the electronic devices. This ain't church service on Sunday, but ...

• Text and tweets ... suspended.

• Telephones and cell phones ... off.

• E-mail ... nada.

Tune the teevee to ESPN2 and, hey! "Find you a seat, gran'ma, mine's down in the front row!"

Next, the Deuce will channel us to Yum Center where lights will be dimmed and player introductions roll out from the most obnoxious P.A. voice this side of Michael 'Get Ready to Rumble!' Buffer.

Then, Kentucky and Louisville will get it on again. This time the Wildcats are No. 1, the Cardinals No. 4.

According to one teevee expert already last week: "Nobody's going to beat Kentucky. *Nobody*." Dan Dakich, ESPN.

Cardinal fans would rather ignore the Wildcats' talent, size, depth, defense, unselfishness and growing swagger that produced a 41-7 halftime last Saturday. Realities that have catapulted Kentucky into college hoops' stratosphere, alone. A zone where, despite John Calipari's whiny "shhhh," the words *unbeaten season* have found a way into mainstream conversation, ESPN to CBS and beyond.

Louisville? Rick Pitino teams are known for toughness. Is intriguing then, the Dakich key to Kentucky running the table, "is their toughness."

And so, with all the bone crunch, bruises and tumbles in the movie Lone Survivor, Saturday's UK-UofL could be a sequel.

Louisville is a good team. Kentucky is a remarkable one.

Strategies?

√ Pitino's familiar "press, press and befuddle an opponent into playing faster that he wants," against Kentucky's rotation, won't work.

√ The Wildcats dozen 3-pointers against UCLA was impressive, but the defense stopped UCLA at 25 per cent is moreso. UK's storming transition offense, coupled with bang-it-inside option against Louisville's bigs, will be the deciders.

So, open your presents Thursday, Gran'ma, but be sure to reserve a seat in the teevee room on Saturday. Here in *The Nations*, its Planet Basketball weekend in the Bluegrass.

KENTUCKY-LOUISVILLE LOUISVILLE. History shows that Rick Pitino thrives on lime-light games like one coming Saturday. His teams don't always win, but his players *bring it*. Emotion-fueled by big stage, they perform at a level beyond themselves.

Question to be answered: Can the Cardinals make it work for 40 minutes against an all-star team? I don't think so.

KENTUCKY. Wildcats are superior at every position, either platoon. Bigger, stronger, better and for more minutes. Even on enemy's court, they should prevail.

Disadvantage? One. Louisville is better coached. Pitino is a 700-plus-wins Hall of Famer for reasons that transcend recruiting and talent. This time it won't be enough.

WKU, UofL 'REWARDS'?

Rick Pitino's (reluctant?) trip to Bowling Green became more Christmas gift than expected. His fourth ranked Cardinals were stretched out, had to play blue collar tough for longer to win a road game.

√ Bode well for ACC road games, the Cardinals had to win without Montrezl Harrell who got himself ejected.

√ Pitino appeared bored then cranky from the outset. At :34 before halftime he lost his poise too, earning a technical foul for barking at WKU's Ray Harper who barked back and earned a 'T' also.

√ Terry Rozier was brilliant, Anas Mahmoud was clutch and the Cards handled their first frenzied crowd and fired up Hilltoppers well enough.

Flip side: Western played the nation's No. 4 team virtually even for 35 minutes, before bumbling down the stretch. Curtains.

What did Western get from the game?

√ An endorsement from 7,598 fans. More than a full house.

√ Coach Ray Harper kept his emotions in check when those around him lost theirs, including a Hall of Fame opposing coach. Classy.

√ Hilltoppers made 10 3-pointers for second game in a row.

√ Left 10-plus points at the free throw line. Lesson? Shooting a gazillion foul shots at practice, matters on game nights.

√ Fans, a Christmas gift. They paid to see a legitimate C-USA title contender play December basketball. By February these Hilltoppers could be Big Dance worthy.

AND SO, CHRISTMAS

If I had a gift (message) to give you, it might be this from Lao Tzu:

"I have three precious things which I hold fast and prize. The first is gentleness; the second is frugality; the third is humility, which keeps me from putting myself before others.

"Be gentle and you can be bold; be frugal and you can be liberal; avoid putting yourself before others and you can become a leader among men."

And so it goes.

Merry Christmas.

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CHAMPIONS OF CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT - Winning the Itty Bitty Trees and Trends Christmas Classic were the Lady Pilots of Fulton County. The team includes (front row, l to r) Jekiya Warren, AnnaGregory Grissom, KyLira Williams, Dixie Major, Lucy Kimble, Alana Coffey, and Leslie Beth Jackson; and (back row, l to r) Assistant Coach Denise Grissom, Jocelyn Mosely, Head Coach Leonard, Smith, Sr. Daisy Major, Jada Beth Mathews, Josie Prehoda, Assistant Coach Mitchell Williamson, Zaria Ervin, Alexis Dickson, and manager Luke Jackson.

Lady Pilots claim tournament championship

Charles Choate
Courier Correspondent

The Fulton County Lady Pilots participation in the "Itty Bitty Trees and Trends Christmas Classic", turned out to be "very big" for the team this season.

Coach Leonard Smith's girls conquered the Christian Fellowship hosted event, knocking off Fulton City, Dawson Springs and Trinity (Whitesville) to take home the championship trophy.

" We are just thrilled. I couldn't have imagined us going up there and winning like we did," said the coach after the presentation of the first place trophy. "The girl's just played excellent the whole tournament. I am so happy to see this happen to them. It's probably been about nine years since a girl's team has hoisted a trophy. I am just excited to know that our program is growing, the fans are supporting us, and I think this is just something to boost us for the rest of the season."

Fulton County's KyLira Williams was named the tournament "Most Valuable Player", with Leslie Beth Jackson and Jocelyn Mosley selected to the "All-Tournament Team."

Lady Pilots 44
Fulton City 38

The Lady Pilots posted their second win of the season by knocking off the Lady Bulldogs in the first round of the Christmas tournament.

Coach Leonard Smith's (2-4) team set the tone early by jumping out to a 15-1 first quarter lead.

Fulton County added to their game advantage by outscoring their cross county rivals 12-8 in the second quarter, to hold a 27-9 halftime lead.

While Fulton City did mount a furious comeback in the second half, outscoring the Lady Pilots 29-17, the early lead by the Lady Pilots was to much to overcome.

"The girls came out ready to play and I think our early lead maybe surprised them just a bit," said Coach Smith. "We had so many to play well tonight, it was just a great team effort. We blocked out well, hit our free throws and most of all, it let the girls know what we can do when we have to face them in the districts."

Leslie Beth Jackson led the Lady Pilots on the night with 13 points, followed by Jocelyn Mosley 9, Alana Coffey 9, Jekiya Warren 5, Lucy Kimble 3, AnnaGregory Grissom 2, KyLira Williams 2 and Leah Weatherly 1.

Fulton City was led in scoring by Autumn Tucker with 13 points.

Lady Pilots 39
Dawson Springs 34

Fulton County held leads of seven points at halftime, and going into the final period, and posted a semi-final win over the Lady Panthers in the Christmas tournament game.

A big second quarter outburst by Coach Leonard Smith's team, in which the Lady Pilots posted 25 points, gave Fulton County a 27-20 intermission advantage.

The two teams then played even in the second half, moving the Lady Pilots into the championship game.

"They were a very talented team and this was a big win for us," said Coach Smith, who will now advance to the tournament championship. "We just overpowered them late in the game, which was the reason we won. Again, this was just a team win and that is what it is going to take for us to be successful."

The win upped the Lady Pilots season record to (3-4), with KyLira Williams leading the way with a game high 13 points.

Jekiya Warren added 8 points, followed by Jocelyn Mosley 6, Lucy Kimble 5, Leslie Beth Jackson 4, AnnaGregory Grissom 2 and Alana Coffey 1.

Dawson Springs was led by Ticki Robinson with 9 points.

Lady Pilots 35
Trinity (Whitesville) 23

The championship of the Itty Bitty Trees and Trends Classic came back to Hickman, after the Fulton County Lady Pilots posted their third win in as many games.

The (4-4) Lady Pilots got balanced scoring from seven players to beat the (3-5) Lady Raiders by 12 points in the championship game.

"I really didn't know how the girls would play in a big game like this, but they just did everything right," said an excited Coach Leonard Smith. "Our focus was great. Our press caused them so much trouble, and I believe we were just one step ahead of them for most of the day. It was just our day. The girls responded and they were so excited. It was big for the players and the coaching staff."

Lucy Kimble led the Lady Pilots in the game with 8 points, followed by KyLira Williams 7, Jekiya Warren 6, Jocelyn Mosley 4, Alana Coffey 4, AnnaGregory Grissom 4 and Dixie Major 2.

Alex Hamilton was the leading scorer for Trinity (Whitesville) with 7 points.

ALL-TOURNAMENT PLAYERS - Named to the All-Tournament Team in the Itty Bitty Trees and Trends Christmas Classic held on Saturday, Dec. 20, were (l to r) Jocelyn Mosely, KyLira Williams, MVP, and Leslie Beth Jackson.

Photo by Jenna Smith

TAKING THE SHOT - Fulton County Lady Pilot Leslie Beth Jackson, #14, goes up for the shot against two Trinity defenders in the championship game held in Marshall County on Saturday, Dec. 20.

Photo by Charlotte Smith

TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS - Bringing home the first place trophy in the Itty Bitty Trees and Trends Christmas Classic were the Fulton County Pilots. The team includes (front row, l to r) Dre Smith, DeVontae Hampton, Terrell Wilson, Davis Major, and Tanner Ford; and (back row, l to r) Shaun Murphy, Head Coach Mitchell Williamson, Justin Jones, Joyrian Bradley, Cameron Smith, Nataven Bransford, Steven Roberson, Assistant Coach Leonard Smith, Sr., Aaron Allen, and Taylor Sipes.

Pilots bring home Christmas Championship

Charles Choate
Courier Correspondent

ForCoachMitchellWilliamson, a very special Christmas gift came early this year.

After watching his talented Pilots team start the season with an (0-5) record, the coach received the gift of a championship trophy from the Itty Bitty Trees and Trends Christmas Classic in Marshall County.

Hosted by Christian Fellowship High School, the Pilots were able to pull off three straight wins, including a last second buzzer beater shot in the championship game, to take home the first place hardware.

"This is just what this team needed," said Coach Williamson. "We needed some winnable games and we needed to win those games to get our confidence going. Our guys came in ready to play and they did a great job."

During the tournament, the Pilots would post an opening round win against Joppa-Maple Grove, Illinois, which was followed by a semi-final win against the host Eagles and then the final championship game against Trinity (Whitesville) of Owensboro.

Steven Roberson was named the tournaments "Most Valuable Player", with Fulton County teammates Davis Major and Aaron King placed on the "All-Tournament Team".

Fulton County 75
Joppa-Maple Grove, Illinois 41

The Pilots placed their first "W" of the season in the scorebooks, by defeating Joppa by 34 points in the opening round game.

Coach Mitchell Williamson saw starters Steven Roberson and Aaron King put in eight-points a piece in the first quarter, as the Pilots raced out to a 23-6 lead.

Following the quick start, it was just a matter of what the final margin of victory would be, as Fulton County held a halftime lead of 36-11 and third quarter advantage of 61-25.

"This team was a lot better than the score indicated," said Coach Williamson. "They had some disciplinary issues that resulted in some players sitting out the first half, but even when they came in for the second half, we really over matched them and were just quicker on the floor. It was a good win for us and a good way to start the tournament."

King led the Pilots in the game with 16 points, followed by the double-digit effort of teammate's Steven Roberson with 15 and Davis Major 14.

Dre Smith, Justin Jones and Shaun Murphy all contributed 8 points apiece in the win, with Devontae Hampton adding 6 points.

Joppa-Maple Grove was led by McKeel Sparks with 15 points.

Fulton County 64
Christian Fellowship 33

The Pilots punched their ticket to the championship game of the Trees and Trends Christmas Classic by beating the host Eagles in the semi-final round.

Fulton County, (2-5), had 11 players enter their names into the scoring column during the game as part of the 31 point win.

Davis Major got the Pilots rolling to a 29-5 first quarter lead, when he droped in 10-points in the period.

By the intermission, Coach Mitchell Williamson's squad had built a 32-point advantage at 43-11 and knew they would move on to play for the tournament title.

"We were able to get in a lot of players in this game and get some experience," said Coach Williamson. "It was good to get the win and move on to the championship game."

During the game, Davis Major and Steven Roberson each contributed 10 points, followed by Aaron King and Shaun Murphy 8, Dre Smith 7, Devontae Hampton, Terrell Wilson and Justin Jones 5, and Taylor Sipes, Nataven Bransford and Cameron Smith 2.

Christian Fellowship was led by John Robert Ward with 13 points.

Fulton County 71
Trinity (Whitesville) 69

The Pilots made a big fourth quarter comeback, which included a buzzer beater shot by Devontae Hampton, to capture the Trees and Trends Christmas Classic over the Panthers.

Hampton's put back shot allowed Fulton County (3-5) to overcome a seven point deficit starting the final period of play, and allowed the Pilots to maintain a three game winning streak.

The Pilots also received a huge offensive output by Senior center Steven Roberson, who scored a game high 30 points and pulled down 18 rebounds, securing his selection as the tournament's MVP honors.

"This was a great win for us against a very fundamentally sound basketball team," said Coach Williamson. "They had some players and we knew we had to get tough when they went up by 13 points in the third quarter. It was also great that when Davis (Major) and Aaron (King) went out with fouls in the fourth quarter, our bench kept playing hard. We went back to the press and started applying the pressure and it worked. Just a big win."

Following Roberson's 30 point effort was Davis Major, who pitched in 15 points.

Aaron King added 12, Dre Smith 7 and Devontae Hampton 7.

Trinity's Daniel Morris scored 27 points in the losing effort, which included four 3-point shots.

Photo by Jenna Smith

SPLITTING THE DEFENSE - Steven Roberson, Tournament MVP, splits the Trinity defenders during the championship game held on Saturday, Dec. 20 in Marshall County. Roberson scored 30.

ALL-TOURNAMENT PLAYERS - Named to the All-Tournament team in the Itty Bitty Trees and Trends Christmas Classic were (l to r) Aaron Allen, Steven Roberson, MVP, and Davis Major.

FULTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT
2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, January 5 and 12
Monday, February 16
Monday, March 16
Monday, April 13
Monday, May 11
Monday, June 15
Monday, July 13
Monday, August 17
Monday, September 14
Monday, October 12
Monday, November 16
Monday, December 14

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Fulton County High School 2014-15 Basketball Schedule

Dec. 29	Trigg Co. New Years Classic	GV ..	TBA
Dec. 30	Trigg Co. New Years Classic	GV ..	TBA
Jan. 2	**Obion Co. Central**	**GJV/GV/BV ..**	**4:30**
Jan. 3	CCA	GV/BV ..	6:00
Jan. 6	**Hickman Co.**	**BJV/GV/BV ..**	**4:30**
Jan. 8	Peabody	GV/BV ..	6:00
Jan. 9	**Fulton City**	**GV/BV ..**	**4:30**
Jan. 12	So. Fulton	GV/BV ..	6:00
Jan. 15	**Ballard Memorial**	**GV/BV ..**	**6:00**
Jan. 16	**Carlisle Co.**	**BJV/GV/BV ..**	**5:00**
Jan. 17-24	1st Region All "A" Classic	GV/BV ..	TBA
Jan. 27	Christian fellowship	BJV/BV ..	6:00
Jan. 29	Ballard Memorial	GV/BV ..	6:00
Jan. 30	**CCA****	**GV/BV ..**	**6:00**
Jan. 31	**Lake Co.**	**GV/BV ..**	**6:00**
Feb. 3	Carlisle Co.	BJV/GV/BV ..	5:00

Home games in bold

Sadie and Sawyer Mathis

Tiny Miracles

from page 1

Kayla. "For the next 5 1/2 days I was placed in what's called Trendelenburg, where they tilt your head down, feet up high in the bed (the longest 5 1/2 days of my life.)"

Although the days were very long and scary for Kayla and Justin, it was very well worth it. "The doctors never imagined I could keep from going into full term labor for as long as I did," she said. "The first few days Justin, my parents and his parents were all in one small hospital room. There wasn't much sleeping for the first few days, lots of sitting and waiting."

A lot of waiting and the unknown, not sure of what could happen was beyond scary for Kayla, Justin and their families.

"On the morning of Saturday, Nov. 22 at 24 weeks and 3 days pregnant I was rushed into emergency surgery to deliver two tiny babies by C section at 10:34 a.m."

Sawyer Mathis weighed 1 lb. 6 oz. and was 12 inches long. Sadie Mathis weighed 1 lb 8oz and was 12 1/2 inches long. "I can remember looking at Justin after delivery and saying I just need to hear them cry," said the new mother. "Before the words exited my mouth, our two tiny miracles let our their first cries."

For Kayla that was the most rewarding sound. "I've never heard anything any better," she added.

Since the birth of the twins it has been a trying time for the Mathis and Anderson families, but also filled with wonderful moments, too. "Sadie and Sawyer have proved to us that they are both fighters," said Kayla. "They are gaining weight and eating more and more everyday. We are waiting for their lungs to fully develop but they improve every second of each day."

Kangaroo care is something that both twins, Sadie and Sawyer love. "They both love snuggling up to Mommy and Daddy's chests. The doctors say those times of 'kangaroo care' snuggling with us help them improve," explained Kayla.

The twins are now a month old and during this last month it has been amazing how much they have grown and changed. "We have been asked numerous times how we will be spending Christmas," said Kayla. "No, this year we won't be home with all of our family but we will be in the NICU with the two greatest gifts of all time, our tiny miracles Sadie and Sawyer."

Justin and Kayla can't think of any greater gift this year for Christmas. "We ask that you continue to keep our family in your prayers, as we still have a long road ahead of us," said Kayla. "We want to thank everyone for their heartfelt prayers, calls, visits, kind words and donations made in order to help us with expenses. It is amazing how a community can come together so quickly and help those who need it, there are no words to describe how thankful we all are."

The family of Justin, Kayla, Sadie and Sawyer send their love to all of you this Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING IN UNISON - On Wednesday, Dec. 17 members of Cayce United Methodist Church and Cayce Baptist Church were out in Cayce singing Christmas carols. They both were at the home of Ruby Snider at the same time. Some of those singing include t o p photo from left, Dennis Jones, Dinah Jones, Christine Atwill, Joanie Cruce, Lois Gardner, Carmen Henderson, Bro. Jim Wolfgang, Bro. Dale True, Lewis Atwill, Edna Haney, Trea Hopper, Wendy Duncan, and Peggy Hill. At left, (l to r) Edna Haney, Trea Hopper, Wendy Duncan, Peggy Hill, Nancy Sheehan, Larry Gardner, Tracy Campbell, Melanie Curlin, and Suzanne Hurley.

NATIVITY EVENT HELD AT RUSH CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - (At left) Rush Creek UMC hosted a nativity event narrated by Paige Greer on Sunday, Dec. 21. Minister Hugh Barksdale graciously followed a youthful cast who cheerfully played their parts. The two sheep were Bentlee Greer and Davis Haywood. The angel was Katie Grace Haywood. Mary was Kelton Hardy. Joseph was Cameron Sublett. Three wise men were Kennedy Sublett, Lawson Hardy and Landon Simpson. Guitarist Joe Greer and flutist Katie Haywood provided music for the partisan audience of family and friends. Costumes were made by Kay Hardy and Katie Haywood. The extended Hardy family provided a pleasant meal following morning services. (Photo submitted.)

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